

IMMIGRATION NEWS

Volume 86

TRA Set To Dump Voluntary Work Experience



21st July 2008

Dear Students

Welcome to the new subscribers of IMMIGRATION NEWS. This service is brought to you by Australian Immigration Law Services.

Please feel free to e-mail this newsletter to any of your friends.

TRA Set To Dump Voluntary Work Experience

Trades Recognition Australia (TRA) has released the shocking news that from the 1st of September 2008, in most cases, it will no longer accept voluntary work experience to be used for the 900 hours trade experience hours needed by students studying their Certificate III in Australia. Voluntary work experience has been accepted by TRA since the inception of the 900 hours rule introduced back in 2005.

TRA is proposing a new set of guidelines to start in September which is to be divided in two main categories, Skill Stream A – Australian and Skill Stream B – International.

Under the A stream, students who complete an Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) compliant training program resulting in a AQF Certificate III (or above) combined with 900 hours of *employment* will meet the standards of their nominated occupation. These are trade occupations such as Cook, Hairdresser etc.

The TRA Migration Assessment Policy Draft states;

“Skill Category 2 – Employment: Applicants awarded an AQF Certificate III or above as applicable to a nominated occupation on the basis of formal vocational training (clause 6.1.1) must also demonstrate no less than nine hundred (900) hours of *employment*.”

Under Part F – Definitions, *employment* is defined as;

“Employment: means the set of specialized, practical, theoretical and technical skills in a workplace, undertaken on behalf of a company, organization or individual, including self employment, for the primary purpose of remuneration and subject to relevant workplace laws,

conditions and obligations.

- 24.10.1** Employment must be relevant and directly related to a nominated occupation and include a skill level transition or skilled work.
- 24.10.2** Employment does not include institution based workplace training.
- 24.10.3** Unpaid employment may be accepted as employment in limited circumstances.
- 24.10.4** Evidence of unpaid employment should:
- a.** differentiate the unpaid work from training requirements; and
 - b.** explain why the applicant is working in an unpaid capacity.”

Unfair Policy

So what happens to all of the students who have been diligently working in a voluntary capacity and planning to use this time towards their 900 hours? According to TRA, they do not seem to care as there is no transition period allowed for in their guidelines.

If these changes unfairly affect your planning let TRA know by e-mail, fax or telephone. These proposals are in a draft form so they can still be amended if the voice of protest is loud enough.

Next Newsletter?

The first professional year of study programs are released by ACS. CPA is not far behind.

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Kind regards

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